

● NEW ELECTRICAL PROGRAM WEB SITE ADDRESS

The electrical program web site address has changed. The improved, user-friendly site is available at: www.lni.wa.gov/TradesLicensing/electrical.

● Electrical Board Recruitment

The Electrical Advisory Board has fourteen (14) members appointed by the Governor for a regular 4-year term. Representation on the Board includes three electrical contractors, one electrical utility representative, one manufacturer, three certified electricians, one combination electrical/RCDD certified engineer, one general public member, one telecommunications worker, one telecommunications contractor, one telecommunications service provider and one building official (non-voting).

Two Electrical Board appointments are scheduled to expire in July 2004. One position represents electrical utilities and one represents building officials (non-voting). Incumbent members may apply for reappointment to their positions, and new, interested, qualified persons may also apply for these positions.

An *Application for Gubernatorial Appointment to a Board or Commission* form is necessary. Requests for copies of the application and any questions may be directed to Angie Wharton at (360) 902-5259.

Applicants must submit a letter of interest, completed application form (above), and current resume to the Chief Electrical Inspector, PO Box 44460, Olympia, WA 98504-4460, by no later than April 1, 2004.

● Attention Specialty Electrical Contractors And Electricians

The open window opportunity for assigning a temporary administrator for the following specialties will close July 31, 2004. Please refer to WAC 296-46B-930(2) and Table 930-1 for detailed information.

- Domestic well (03A)
- HVAC/refrigeration-restricted (New – 06B)
- Nonresidential maintenance (07)
- Nonresidential lighting maintenance (07A)
- Residential maintenance (07B)
- Restricted nonresidential maintenance (New - (07C)
- Appliance repair (New – 07D)
- Equipment repair (New – 07E)
- Door, gate and similar systems (10)

All the above certification categories are also open to individuals who wish to apply any previous work experience gained toward electrical training credit. The HVAC/refrigeration (06A) category is also open for individuals to count previous experience but is not open for assigning a temporary administrator. This window of opportunity also closes on July 31, 2004. For detailed information regarding applying previous work experience toward certification please refer to WAC 296-46B-950 and Table 950-1.

● New Requirements For Continuing Education

To be eligible for renewal of an administrator certificate, master electrician, or electrician certificate of competency, an individual must have completed at least eight hours of approved continuing education for each year of the prior certification period. At least eight hours of the total required continuing education must be on the currently adopted National Electrical Code changes.

Beginning January 1, 2005, four hours of the required continuing education must be on the currently adopted chapter 19.28 RCW and its related WAC(s).

Those individuals who currently have certification that expires after December 31, 2004 are encouraged to plan ahead for the new requirement for RCW and WAC update training. Remember, the required NEC, WAC, and RCW training must be on the version in effect at the time of renewal.

All currently approved continuing education courses are available on the Electrical Program Web site at www.lni.wa.gov/TradesLicensing/electrical.

● 4:00 PM Inspection Request Cut-Off.

Inspection requests made, by phone or fax, after 4:00 PM may not be processed in time to be included in the inspectors work for the following business day. To assure an inspection request will be processed in time phone or fax your request prior to 4:00 PM. Contractors may use the online Electrical Inspection Request Service (EIRS). EIRS provides 24-hour electronic access to active permits and allows inspection requests made prior to midnight to be included in an inspector's workload for the following day. See the electrical Web site for details on how to use this service.

● Are Auto Body Shops Commercial Garages?

Recently there has been some question as to whether automobile body shops are commercial garages and subject to the requirements of NEC 511.

NFPA 30A is the National Fire Protection Association "Code For Motor Fuel Dispensing Facilities And Repair Garages" and defines a major repair garage as *"a building or portions of a building where major repairs, such as engine overhauls, painting, body and fender work, and repairs that require draining of the motor vehicle fuel tank are performed on motor vehicles, including associated floor space used for offices, parking, or showrooms.*

Auto body shops are commercial garages and subject to the requirements of NEC 511. Additional requirements, for areas where paint spraying is done, are found in NEC 516.

● Who May Remove Electrical Wiring And Equipment?

Un-trained workers are typically unaware of the potential electrical hazards they often leave behind when disconnecting or abandoning electrical wiring and equipment. Until a licensed electrical contractor properly disconnects and properly terminates circuits being abandoned or demolished, all work on the electrical circuit(s) is considered electrical maintenance and appropriate licenses and certificates are required from anyone working on the circuit(s).

RCW 19.28.041 states: *"It is unlawful for any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other entity to engage in, conduct, or carry on the business of installing or maintaining wires or equipment to convey electric current, or installing or maintaining equipment to be operated by electric current as it pertains to the electrical industry, without having an unrevoked, unsuspended, and unexpired electrical contractor license, issued by the department in accordance with this chapter."*

Once the circuit(s) is properly disconnected, ensuring isolation from all premises wiring, non-electrical contractors and individuals may then remove the de-energized conductors or equipment. Non-electrical contractors or individuals are not allowed to perform any type of work inside energized electrical enclosures (e.g. panels, switches, junction boxes, etc.).

● Electrical Question of the Month

This Month's Question: In clothes closets, recessed incandescent lighting fixtures with a completely enclosed lamp shall be permitted to be installed in the wall or on the ceiling, provided there is a minimum clearance of _____ inches between the fixture and the nearest point of a storage space. A) 6, B) 12, C)18, D) 24.

Last Month's Question: Electric heating appliances employing resistance-type heating elements rated more than _____ amperes shall have the heating elements subdivided. A) 60, B) 50, C) 48 D) 35.
The answer is: C) [NEC 424.22(B)]